

2019 Current Fiscal Year Report: Internal Revenue Service Advisory Council

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Treasury

2. Fiscal Year

2019

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Internal Revenue Service Advisory Council

3b. GSA Committee No.

1253

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

10/17/2018

6. Expected Renewal Date

10/17/2020

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

AGEN

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

AGEN

13. Effective Date

11/21/1987

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

1

16b. Report Date

11/15/2018

Report Title

Internal Revenue Service Advisory Council Annual Report

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 1 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 1

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

The Internal Revenue Service Advisory Council held its annual public meeting to present its recommendations to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Start

End

11/15/2018 - 11/15/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

Current FY Next FY

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff

\$0.00 \$0.00

18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff

\$0.00 \$0.00

18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The primary purpose is to provide an organized public forum for IRS officials and IRSAC to discuss relevant tax administrative issues. The group suggests operational improvements, offers constructive observations about IRS' current or proposed policies, programs, and procedures, and advises the IRS on particular issues having substantive effect on federal tax administration. The IRSAC conveys the public's perception of activities to the IRS. The IRSAC's objectives continue to evolve. The group addresses broad tax administration topics or organizational issues, rather than narrow technical issues. Discussions focus on solutions as well as constructive observations with respect to the tax administration system. Meetings provide an opportunity for the IRSAC to offer collective advice on strategic IRS issues. The IRSAC is comprised of individuals from diverse backgrounds who bring a wide breadth of experience to the Council's activities. Of the problematic issues identified, the IRS has adopted many of the IRSAC's recommendations generating results mutually beneficial to the IRS and taxpayers.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: During the fiscal year, the IRSAC raised issues relating to compliance and taxpayer-specific issues based on factors giving rise to non-compliance. In addition, each of the Council's subgroups submitted several issues specific to the divisions they represent. These divisions are Wage & Investment (W&I), Small Business Self- Employed (SB/SE), Large Business and International (LB&I), Digital Services and the Office of Professional Responsibility Subgroup. Specific issues raised included: The Essential Need to Provide the Internal Revenue Service with Adequate Funds to Fulfill its Mission, LB&I Examination Process, LB&I Campaigns, Schedule UTP, W-2 Verification Codes and Engaging Tax Practitioners, Account Lock/Unlock, Marketing/Promoting Priority Practitioner Service Improvements to the Practitioner Community, Taxpayer and Practitioner Concerns Regarding Private Debt Collection, Comments on Proposed Revised Collection Notices, The Need for Express Statutory Authority to Confirm the Treasury Department's Ability to Establish, Enforce, and Require Minimum Standards of Competence for All Tax Practitioners, including Tax Return Preparers, Educating Practitioners and Preparers about Their Responsibilities under the Internal Revenue Code's Penalty Provisions and the Treasury Department's Practice Standards Contained in Circular 230, Tax Professional Account, Third-Party Application Program Interfaces (APIs), Form 2848 Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative, Generally Accepted Appraisal Standards in IRS Valuations, Attendance by Compliance and Counsel Personnel at Appeals Division Conferences, and The Future

of the IRSAC.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

To accurately convey the public's perception of IRS activities, IRSAC members are appointed to represent a point of view from a customer segment of the public and major stakeholders in federal tax administration matters, with a goal of having as great a diversity of views as possible. Membership balance is not static and may change depending on the work of the IRSAC. Therefore, members are selected through a structured application process that targets individuals with interest in federal tax administration matters who have substantial, disparate experiences and diverse backgrounds. Specific subject matter and technical expertise in federal tax administration issues, such as in Treasury Circular 230, is generally required to accomplish the tasks of the IRSAC. The IRSAC members usually include enrolled agents, certified public accountants and lawyers, as well as representatives from academia, businesses and other organizations of varying sizes. Accordingly, managed by the IRS, this selection process provides a diverse and balanced membership representing a cross-section of the taxpaying public.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

During FY 2018, the IRSAC conducted one public meeting, three working sessions and one orientation meeting. The working sessions provided IRSAC members the opportunity to meet with IRS officials for issue development, to facilitate discussions, and to analyze and formulate recommendations for public meeting presentations.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

Voluntary compliance requires that the IRS remain apprised of the public's perception of its activities. Providing invaluable counsel with respect to assessing the public's perception of IRS activities, the IRSAC offers constructive observations regarding current or proposed IRS policies, programs, and procedures, suggests improvements to IRS operations, and in so doing, operates to maximize voluntary compliance while minimizing the burden to taxpayers.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

N/A.

21. Remarks

The four working sessions that are listed under "Meetings" were held to provide IRSAC members the opportunity to meet with IRS executives and subject matter experts for issue

briefings, facilitate discussions, and to analyze and formulate feedback and/or recommendations.

Designated Federal Officer

John A. Lipold Branch Chief, National Public Liaison

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Allen, Lisa	02/13/2019	12/31/2019	Relph Benefit Advisors	Representative Member
Bentsen, Martin	02/13/2019	12/31/2020	FIS Wall Street Concepts	Representative Member
Bianculli, Brenda	01/27/2016	12/31/2018	Brenda M. Bianculli, CPA, LLC	Representative Member
Carter, Tenesha	02/13/2019	12/31/2019	State Employees Credit Union	Representative Member
Cathell, Randall	02/13/2019	12/31/2019	Cherry Bekaert LLP	Representative Member
Cruz, Alexandra	02/13/2019	12/31/2020	Ernst & Young	Representative Member
Deneka, Ben	01/24/2018	12/31/2020	Industry Operations Liaison, H&R Block	Representative Member
Ellenby, Alan	02/13/2019	12/31/2019	Ernst and Young	Representative Member
Engle, Micael	02/13/2019	12/31/2020	BKD, LLP	Representative Member
Erbsen, Diana	01/24/2018	12/31/2020	Partner, DLA Piper LLP	Representative Member
Fisk, Sharyn	01/25/2017	12/31/2019	Assistant Professor of Accounting, Cal Polytechnic University - Pomona	Representative Member
Flynn, Dana	02/13/2019	12/31/2019	UBS	Representative Member
Fox, Deborah	02/13/2019	12/31/2020	Tax Solutions	Representative Member
Goff, April	02/13/2019	12/31/2021	JC Penney Corporation, Inc.	Representative Member
Gonzalez, Antonio	01/24/2018	12/31/2020	Founder & Co-Owner, Sydel Corporation	Representative Member
Hettick, Kathy	01/25/2017	12/31/2019	Owner, Hettick Accounting & Tax, LLC	Representative Member
Hurwitz, Stuart	01/27/2016	12/31/2018	Stuart M. Hurwitz, dba CPA Law Offices	Representative Member
Kay, Sheldon	01/25/2017	12/31/2019	Partner, Crowe Horwath LLP, CPA	Representative Member
Kelsey, Sanford	02/13/2019	12/31/2020	Expedia Group	Representative Member
Kubey, Phyllis	01/25/2017	12/31/2019	Owner, Phyllis Jo Kubey, EA CFP ATA ATP	Representative Member
Kuwana, Masaki	02/13/2019	12/31/2020	Amazon.com	Representative Member
Levenson, Joel	02/13/2019	12/31/2019	University of Central Florida	Representative Member
Lew, Carol	02/13/2019	12/31/2021	Stradling, Yocca, Carlson & Rauth	Representative Member
Lindsay, Emily	02/03/2019	12/31/2020	American University Kogod School of Business	Representative Member

Lipkin, Andrew	02/13/2019	12/31/2019	City of New York, Law Department	Representative Member
Lovin, Ryan	02/13/2019	12/31/2019	Vanguard	Representative Member
Macfarlane, Charles	01/25/2017	12/31/2019	VP and General Tax Counsel, Chevron Corporation Tax Department	Representative Member
Murray, Frederick	02/13/2019	12/31/2020	University of Florida, Levin College of Law	Representative Member
O'Brien, Shawn	01/27/2016	12/31/2018	Attorney	Representative Member
Paille, James	02/13/2019	12/31/2019	Thomson Reuters	Representative Member
Read, Charles	01/24/2018	12/31/2020	President, Custom Payroll Associates, Inc.	Representative Member
Rule, Martin	01/24/2018	12/31/2020	Senior Manager, Deloitte Tax LLP	Representative Member
Salavejus, Stephanie	07/01/2016	12/31/2018	VP, Peninsula Software	Representative Member
Schneider, Jeffrey	01/24/2018	12/31/2020	Vice President, SFS Tax & Accounting Services, Inc.	Representative Member
Sells, Clark	02/13/2019	12/31/2019	Ceridian	Representative Member
Swift, Jean	02/13/2019	12/31/2020	The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation	Representative Member
Thompson, Dave	01/27/2016	12/31/2018	Director/Master of Accounting, Alabama State University	Representative Member
Thompson, Patricia	01/24/2018	12/31/2020	Tax Partner, Piccerelli, Gilstein & Co LLP	Representative Member
Ventry, Dennis	01/27/2016	12/31/2018	Professor of Law, UC Davis School of Law	Representative Member
Welytok, Daniel	02/13/2019	12/31/2021	Von Briesen & Roper, S.C.	Representative Member
Werner, Mary	02/13/2019	12/31/2020	Wipfli	Representative Member
Yovino, Charles	02/13/2019	12/31/2021	Global HR GRC LLC	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 42

Narrative Description

The primary purpose is to provide an organized public forum for IRS officials and representatives of the public to discuss relevant tax administrative issues. The group suggests operational improvements, offers constructive observations about IRS' current or proposed policies, programs, and procedures, and advises the IRS on particular issues having substantive effect on federal tax administration. The IRSAC conveys the public's perception of activities to the IRS. The IRSAC's objectives continue to evolve. The group addresses broad tax administrative topics or organizational issues, rather than narrow technical issues. Discussions focus on solutions as well as constructive observations with respect to tax administration. Meetings provide an opportunity for the IRSAC to offer collective advice on strategic IRS issues. The IRSAC is comprised of individuals from diverse backgrounds who bring a wide breadth of experience to the Council's activities.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Improvements to health or safety | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Trust in government | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Major policy changes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Advance in scientific research | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective grant making | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Improved service delivery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased customer satisfaction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Unable to Determine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Over \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cost Savings Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

1,287

Number of Recommendations Comments

Prior to 2002 the number of recommendations or what was implemented or partially implemented was not tracked. These numbers represent/reflect data from 2002 to the present.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

22%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Many of the recommendations presented to IRS leadership resulting out of the many hours of analysis and thoughtful effort fail to materialize primarily due to budgetary constraints. A common theme delivered by operating divisions is that while the recommendations are very good, reductions in the fiscal budget or the general lack of financial resources prohibit the implementation of the recommendations brought forth. Therefore, factors, such as the current infrastructure, legislation and other constraints, preclude full implementation at this time while some have been identified to be revisited at another time.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

6%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Many of the recommendations presented to IRS leadership resulting out of the many hours of analysis and thoughtful effort fail to materialize primarily due to budgetary constraints. A common theme delivered by operating divisions is that while the recommendations are very good, reductions in the fiscal budget or the general lack of financial resources prohibit the implementation of the recommendations brought forth. Therefore, factors, such as the current infrastructure, legislation and other constraints, preclude full implementation at this time while some have been identified to be revisited at another time.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Feedback is verbally given to members in a public meeting. Written status updates on the recommendations is given to members the following year.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

	Checked if Applies
Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

	Checked if Applies
Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A